Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 VO-05 CA-01 HA-05 /061 W --------086978 111233Z /11

O 111226Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4157

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, SOPN (MAY, CLIFFORD), UR, US
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS ACCREDITATION IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16018, (B) STATE 165903, (C) APRIL 18 KAMENEV-MCCALL EUR/SOV MEMCON

1. AFTER TRANSMITTAL REF A, EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE DISCUSSED WITH MAY RESULTS OF JULY 10 MEETING WITH ZHURAVLEV. FROM WHAT MAY NOW TELLS US (AND WHICH HE NEGLECTED TO MENTION HERETOFORE DESPITE REPEATED DIS-CUSSIONS ABOUT HIS ACCREDITATION), ZHURAVLEV'S SET-PIECE RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF "TEMPORARY" ACCREDITA-TION WAS NO ACCIDENT; INDEED THAT WAS WHAT MAY HAD ASKED FOR AND HE HAD NEVER RPT NEVER ASKED MFA FOR FULL-FLEDGED ACCREDITATION AS NORMAL, IF NON-RESIDENT, CORRESPONDENT COVERING USSR. THUS, ZHURAVLEV'S COMMENTS WERE TRULY GERMANE: MFA DECLINED MAY'S ORAL REQUEST FOR THREE-MONTH ACCREDITATION BECAUSE SUCH "TEMPORARY" CREDENTIALS ARE SIMPLY NOT GIVEN - AS NOTED REF A, ONLY SPECIFIC CATEGORIES SUCH AS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENTS FOR VACATIONING CORRESPONDENTS FALL INTO THIS PARTICULAR BASKET. MAY, LIKE OTHER JOURNALISTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON SHORT-TERM VISITS, IS EXPECTED TO WORK THROUGH NOVOSTI.

2. MAY NOW SAYS HE NEVER BOTHERED TO ASK ABOUT REGULAR ACCREDITATION AND MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISA BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT REQUEST HAD BEEN "SHOT DOWN" BY SOVIETS IN WASHINGTON LONG AGO. REF B WAS THUS INADVERTENTLY

MISLEADING BECAUSE DEPARTMENT, LIKE US AND PERHAPS EVEN LIKE HEARST HOME OFFICE, BELIEVED MAY HAD REQUESTE ACCREDITATION ALONG LINES TRIAL BALLOON FLOATED IN REF C. HE FAILED TO DO SO, BUT RESULT IS THAT WE NOW IN EFFECT HAVE DONE IT FOR HIM BY OUR PRESENTATION TO ZHURAVLEV ON JULY 10. WE PUT, AND ZHURAVLEV TOOK, QUESTION OF NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION WITH MULTIPLE VISA. FURTHERMORE, MAY ASSURES US HEARST DID WRITE LETTERS TO DOBRYNIN AND KAMENEV, SO QUESTION HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED IN MANNER WHICH PROVIDES BASIS FOR US QUERYING MFA AS WE DID.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE REPEATEDLY DISCUSSED "ACCREDITATION WITH MAY (INCLUDING AN ADVANCE FILL-IN ON WHAT WE PLANNED TO TELL ZHURAVLEV) AND WE FRANKLY FIND IT ASTOUNDING (AND, IN LIGHT OF THE SESSION WITH ZHURAVLEV MILDLY EMBARRASSING) THAT MAY APPARENTLY DID NOT FOCUS ON OR PERCEIVE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL ACCREDITATION AND THREE-MONTH VARIETY. EVERYONE, IN SHORT, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WELL-BRIEFED ON GENERAL ATTEMPT TO TEST ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED REF C EXCEPT MAY HIMSELF, WHO SEEMS RATHER UNCONCERNED ABOUT WHOLE THING AND SEEMS NOT TO HAVE ANY PARTICULAR DESIRE FOR ACCREDITATION. BUT DESPITE THIS, MFA HAS BEEN ASKED WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE RIGHT QUESTION AND WE MUST NOW WAIT FOR A RESPONSE - HOPEFUL THAT MAY'S OWN REQUEST FOR THREE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MONTH CREDENTIALS AND HIS LATER APPROACH TO VOZNIKOV ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP ACTUAL HEARST BUREAU IN MOSCOW WILL NOT FURTHER MUDDY THE WATERS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NEWSPAPERS Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 11 jul 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW16109
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780283-0452 Format: TEL From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780775/aaaackgd.tel

Line Count: 97 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: c5f5ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 MOSCOW 16018, 78 STATE 165903

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2052533 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: APPLICATION FOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS ACCREDITA- TION IN MOSCOW

TAGS: SCUL, SOPN, UR, US, (MAY, CLIFFORD)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5f5ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014